

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference FP2059	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/SG2004/000335	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 13 October 2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 14 October 2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. ⁷ H04Q 7/22		REC'D 31 OCT 2005
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1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - a. ☒ (*sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau*) a total of 8 sheets, as follows:
 - ☒ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - b. ☐ (*sent to the International Bureau only*) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 16 August 2005	Date of completion of the report 21 October 2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer BEN TUOHY Telephone No. (02) 6283 7918

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Box No. I **Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1 (b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1 - 16 as originally filed/furnished
 - pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of
 - pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of
- ☒ the claims:
- pages as originally filed/furnished
 - pages* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 - pages* 17 - 24 received by this Authority on 14 October 2005 with the letter of 13 October 2005
 - pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of
- ☒ the drawings:
- pages 1/1 - 2/2 as originally filed/furnished
 - pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of
 - pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 1 - 42	YES
	Claims None	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1 - 42	YES
	Claims None	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1 - 42	YES
	Claims None	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)**Document cited for the purpose of compiling this report:**

(D1) GB 2342536 A (ORANGE PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES LIMITED) 12 April 2000

See in particular pages 3, 6, 8 and 9

NOVELTY (N) and INVENTIVE STEP (IS) claims 1- 42

Claims 1 - 42 are novel and involve an inventive step in light of the cited prior art document D1 that does not disclose all of the features defined in the claims. D1 does not explicitly disclose a telecommunications system in which a message enabled communications device configured for roaming free connections to a mobile services provider and a distributor to provide the communications device to a user. The system includes a gateway for placing a telephone call to a destination telephone number indicated by a message received from the mobile communication device and also for placing a telephone call to the user through the service provider to patch the user to the destination telephone without incurring roaming charges. And in particular, the communication device is registered with the gateway before it is provided to the user.

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Claims

1. A telecommunications system comprising:
a messaging-enabled communications device configured for a roaming-
5 free connection to a mobile telephone services provider;
a distributor, the distributor providing the communications device to a
user; and
a gateway, the gateway being for placing a telephone call to a
destination telephone having a telephone number indicated by a message
10 received from the mobile communications device and also for placing a
telephone call to the user through the service provider to patch the user to the
destination telephone without incurring roaming charges; wherein
the communication device is registered with the gateway before it is
provided to the user.
15
2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the message is an SMS.
3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the message is an MMS.
4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the mobile communications device is a
20 mobile telephone.
5. The system of Claim 1, wherein mobile communications device is a SIM
card.

6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the user receives the telephone call at the mobile communications device.
7. The system of Claim 1, wherein the user receives the telephone call at a telephone having a telephone number indicated by the message.
8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the mobile communications device is provided to the user by renting it to the user.
9. The system of Claim 1, wherein the mobile communications device is provided to the user by selling it to the user.
10. The system of Claim 1, wherein the distributor is a retail outlet.
11. The system of Claim 1, wherein the distributor provides a selection of mobile communications devices configured for roaming-free connections to different mobile telephone services providers.
12. The system of Claim 1, further comprising:
a database containing user identification information and billing information of the user;
an identification system for obtaining the user identification information from the message;

a data processing system for matching the user identification information obtained from the message with the user identification information in the database to identify the user.

5 13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the user identification information and billing information of the user is entered into the database based on information obtained upon the user registering with the distributor.

14. The system of Claim 1, wherein the user may enabled a diversion of calls
10 from another communication device to the gateway, whereby the calls may be connected to the messaging-enabled communications device.

15. The system of Claim 1, wherein the distributor is located outside the service area of the mobile telephone services provider.

15

16. The system of Claim 1, wherein the gateway is located outside the service area of the mobile telephone services provider.

17. The system of Claim 1, wherein the gateway is arranged, upon receiving
20 a first phone call from the communication device, to place a second phone call to the device and thereby initiate the sending of the message as part of the second phone call.

18. The system of Claim 1, wherein the communication device activates a ring-tone when the message is being received by the gateway.

19. A telecommunications method comprising the steps of:

5 providing a messaging-enabled communications device configured for a roaming-free connection to a telephone services provider;

providing a distributor, the distributor providing the mobile communications device to a user; and

10 providing a gateway, the gateway placing a telephone call through the gateway to a destination telephone having a telephone number indicated by a message received from the mobile communications device and also placing a telephone call through the telephone services provider to the user to patch the customer to the destination telephone without incurring roaming charges; wherein

15 the communication device is registered with the gateway before it is provided to the user.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the message is an SMS.

20 21. The method of claim 19, wherein the message is an MMS.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein the mobile communications device is a mobile telephone.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein mobile communications device is a SIM card.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein the user receives the telephone call at
5 the mobile communications device.

25. The method of claim 19, wherein the user receives the telephone call at a telephone having a telephone number indicated by the message.

10 26. The method of claim 19, wherein the mobile communications device is provided to the user by renting it to the user.

27. The method of claim 19, wherein the mobile communications device is provided to the user by selling it to the user.

15

28. The method of claim 19, wherein the distributor is a retail outlet.

29. The method of claim 19, wherein the distributor provides a selection of mobile communications devices configured for roaming-free connections to
20 different mobile telephone services providers.

30. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
a database containing user identification information and billing
information of the user;

an identification system for obtaining the user identification information from the message;

a data processing system for matching the user identification information obtained from the message with the user identification information in the
5 database to identify the user.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the user identification information and billing information of the user is entered into the database based on information obtained upon the user registering with the distributor.

10

32. The method of claim 19, wherein the distributor is located outside the service area of the mobile telephone services provider.

33. The method of claim 19, wherein the gateway is located outside the
15 service area of the mobile telephone services provider.

34. The method of claim 19, wherein the user may enabled a diversion of calls from another communication device to the gateway, whereby the calls may be connected to the messaging-enabled communications device.

20

35. The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of
the gateway receiving a first phone call from the communication device;
the gateway hanging up the phone call; and

the gateway placing a second phone call to the device, thereby initiating the sending of the message as part of the second phone call.

36. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of activating a ring-
s tone in the communication device when the gateway is receiving the message.

37. A messaging-enabled enabled phone arranged to generate a menu of options, the menu comprising destination telephone numbers; wherein
selection of one or more of the destination numbers causing the phone to
10 generate a message to a service provider of SMS Callback;
the message containing indications of the at least one of the destination numbers;

the message causing the service provider to place call(s) to the at least one destination number and also to place a call to the sender of the message,
15 and patching the calls when they are connected; and

the messaging-enabled enabled phone is registered with a gateway before it is provided to the user.

38. A messaging-enabled enabled phone as claimed in claim 37, which is
20 called up by a button in the messaging-enabled phone.

39. A messaging-enabled enabled phone as claimed in claim 37 or 38, wherein the message is SMS.

40. A messaging-enabled enabled phone as claimed in claim 37, 38 or 39,
wherein the message is MMS.

41. A messaging-enabled enabled phone as claimed in any one of claims 37
5 to 40, wherein the message masks the gateway of the service provider.

42. A messaging-enabled enabled phone having a button wherein a
message is sent to a service provider providing SMS Callback when pressed;
wherein the messaging-enabled enabled phone is registered with a gateway
10 before it is provided to the user.